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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #02505-84
25 April 1984

AH-NIC 02397

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
THROUGH: National Intelligence Officer for USSR-EE *JE*
FROM: Assistant National Intelligence Officer for USSR-EE
SUBJECT: Update on Berlin Air Corridors for Meeting with
Mr. McFarlane

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1. There have been only three developments worth noting since my memo
NIC #02397-84 of 18 April:

- The US, UK, and France are coordinating a joint approach to be made to the Soviet controller in the Berlin Air Safety Center (BASC), the hope being this will give the Soviets the opportunity gracefully to back away from what they have started.
- While supporting this approach, the British noted that "the Foreign Office ... was not optimistic that Soviet reactions would be positive." It therefore proposed a tripartite meeting in Germany to discuss "the scope for 'technical' solutions to air corridor problems and of the allied objectives and tactics in any BASC 'technical' discussions."
- While expressing confidence in allied steadfastness, a West Germany weekly has opined that the Soviet moves must be taken seriously. It pointed to an article in the East German military periodical Militaerwesen which asserts that the air corridor agreement applies to military flights only and not to commercial flights.

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2. The tripartite meeting suggested by the British should represent a step forward. But I still think it incumbent upon the USG in Washington to work out the strategy it wants to follow -- particularly since I believe we will have to fly through Soviet reserved air space in order to get the Soviets to talk seriously, that the problem is not basically technical, and that any US-Soviet exchange at this juncture is but part of the much larger web of US-Soviet maneuverings.

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